



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

THE HEN FEVER.

The hen fever, as the rage for purchasing and breeding foreign fowls of the hen species, is now called, has its uses. Like all other excitements it led many people into ridiculous plans and foolish extravagances. It had its low stage, and it has again settled down to a low one. Reason begins to operate, and the true mean will at length develop the truth, and dispel error even in the hen-roost and poultry yard affairs. We said it had its uses. It was the means of bringing among us all the varieties of poultry that could be found, for aught we know, in the world.

We thus obtained more accurate knowledge of their characteristics. If in many things disappoiment was the result, it was owing to ignorance—misapprehension, and was not the fault of the fowl. It would be strange indeed, if, from the great variety of fowls introduced among us from abroad, many of them should not prove to be valuable acquisitions to our stock.

It would also be strange indeed if the good sense and skill of many breeders of poultry should not make such improvements, by judicious crossings and scientific breeding, as should render them more valuable and better adapted to our climate, and modes of feeding.

We publish in another column a communication which appeared in the "Granite Farmer" on this subject. It is by John C. Moore. Many of his remarks are very just and good, and some of them favor of unfavorable prejudices, to say the least. His idea of crossing the tall jumpy Shanghais with the smaller males of the Dorking or some similar breed, is very good; you can thereby change many of the objectionable characters of this breed, such as diminishing the length of the leg, improving the laying propensity, and lessening the stubborn setting faculties, at the same time keeping good size and weight. All perhaps might be done by a longer and more patient breeding among individuals of the same variety. Although Mr. Moore considers the attempt to preserve them (the Asiatic breeds) pure in this northern climate—"foolish and eminently profitless."

It may be somewhat profitless, but that it is not foolish is proved by the fact that what he calls the "common breed," came originally from the Indies, and have become by long years of breeding, "hardy natives."

In regard to what he says of the Brahma Pootras, or, as he calls them "Botherum Pootras," we cannot fully agree, viz.: that they are nothing but gray Shanghais. We know not how it may be with his, but we have watched a flock belonging to a neighbor, and have become convinced that his, at least, are a fixed and distinct variety.

Our reason for this is the fact that they have never been known to "cory back" as hen breeders say,—that is, they always produce their like and never anything resembling buff, or red, or black Shanghais.

Now, as he says the buff and other colored Shanghais frequently produce different colors. Sometimes a pure white fowl is produced from them, and these white ones again "cory back" and produce buff ones. Now it is not reasonable to suppose, that if the Brahmans were gray Shanghais they would occasionally "hell out" a buff or a red Shanghai! We have never known this to take place in the course of three or four years observation of the flock in our vicinity.

As the "hen fever" has subsided, now is a good time to feed and rear the different breeds (according as taste may dictate) in a quiet but rational way.

A NEW MODE OF DECOMPOSING BONES.

We find in the Ohio Cultivator an article upon the above subject, which it borrowed from some of its exchanges. It was written by James Richardson, Jr. After commenting on the value of bones as a manure, and the difficulty of decomposing them, he says that "an intelligent neighbor of his, Mr. Edward Willis, made an experiment like this. Taking a quantity of bones, none of them, perhaps, smaller than a man's two fists, he made a good layer of fresh horse dung, on which he placed a layer of bones, then another layer of dung, and then another layer of bones, and so on to the top, covering the whole over well with the dung. It lay somewhat longer than he intended, and was allowed to become to some degree fire fanged, but the bones were utterly decomposed."

This is somewhat on the plan adopted by our friend M. Mower, of North Bangor, who makes it a mere pastime to decompose and dissolve carcasses of dead horses and oxen, together with a sprinkling of calves, sheep, hogs and the like, when he can get them. He not only decomposes the flesh of these, but he brings the bones also into a state of disintegration.

By the mode adopted by Mr. Willis, the heat and moisture of the decomposing horse manure brings on also a decomposition of the gelatin or glue of the bones which holds the particles of the bone together, and it becomes dissolved, and the bony particles fall into powder. Possibly they may become dissolved if any acid combination should be formed at the time.

But this will probably not be the case of super phosphate of lime, but is a combination of phosphoric acid and lime, containing a larger portion of lime than super phosphate, and therefore not so easily dissolved, and less valuable as a dressing.

All the varieties of the apple have been produced by cultivating the crab.

SUFFOLK HOGS.

This breed of hogs are coming into general favor, notwithstanding some are very much opposed to them. The greatest objection that we have heard from their opponents is that they are not of sufficient size. Like other breeds of domestic animals, they have their variations of characteristics, and while some families of Suffolk, and indeed some pigs in the same litters, are comparatively small and delicate, others are large, more robust, and will afford, by having the required amount of food, as much pork when slaughtered, as the general run of hogs.

As an instance of this latter class, we would refer those in the immediate neighborhood of our office, to those kept by our neighbor, Mr. Hiram Reed, at his stables, on Winthrop street, near the Cushion House. Here you will find a full blood Suffolk boar, of ample size and fair proportions. Mr. Reed informs us that pigs of his have been slaughtered this season which weighed 500 pounds. Probably they were half bloods, for nothing improves the progeny of the lank, lathy, wind-splitting breed better than crossing with the Suffolks.

The present breed of Suffolks are the old English Suffolk hog, which, according to Loudon, was a small, delicate, white pig, which had for many years great reputation, and was at the time of his writing, (1825,) he says "there is not only a strong prejudice in their favor, in their own country, but they have many advocates out of it. He also says that they are shorter and more pig-formed than the Suffolks, and by their dish face and pendent belly, it may be supposed that the variety proceeded originally from the white Chinese."

The English breeders, by skilful and judicious crossings, have made and fixed the characteristic features of the present breed, which are longer in the body and broader in the back than the old breed, thereby working out their defects and working in the good points of others. This breed are very easily kept. In summer they will live and do well almost entirely on grass. And when confined and fed regularly, they lay on fat very easily, and this fat is placed in the most valuable parts and is very good; it is said that the meat from the Suffolks will readily sell for two cents more than that of any other pork which they have carried to market.

In regard to keeping, to be some aver that they have found them to be large eaters, and poor growers or producers. That there may be some such, we do not deny, but they are the exceptions to the rule. On the other hand, abundance of testimony may be produced that they are kept easier and produce more from their keeping than any of the other breeds.

In the transactions of the New Hampshire Agricultural Society for 1852, we find statements of Mr. James M. Whiton, of Holderness, in that State, made to the committee on swine. Mr. Whiton states that "previous to adopting the breed for his raising, he had made trial of the Mackie, and also the common kind;" but found them not very profitable. The following are his figures in an estimate of keeping eighteen Suffolks from June 1st to October 7th—the articles consumed being productions of his farm. Slops from the kitchen (not valued.)

November 28th, 1855.

FOREIGN FOWLS.

"The Hen Fever" has come and gone. The turpitude of the many quacks who treated the disease, and cruelty of its numerous victims, have been ludicrously and fully exposed. The sequent opinion—at least that which is the more generally prevalent—is that the results of honest attempts to improve the character of domestic poultry, through the importation of foreign varieties, have been failures. This belief is correct, and it is not so, which paradox is explainable according to the manner in which they train themselves to usefulness and their train to fruitfulness.

POMOLOGIST.

It is well known to every one who has studied the animal economy, even superficially, that a deterioration in shape, character, quantity and quality of produce invariably associates itself with the transfer of an animal from its native to more artificial or less favorable, conditions of existence—that an undue change of climate, food and treatment always produces physical resolutions which do not tend to improve the subject of cultivation. It has been precisely so with the eastern fowls imported into this country during the past seven years. They came here exotic—hot-house creatures—and being required to demonstrate all their native superiority in our frigid climate, of course they failed at the outset to meet the requirement, and the process of acclimation put a veto on their train to fruitfulness.

[Granite Farmer]

CAUSE AND EFFECT OF POOR MILK.

The milk of cows kept stable, or where the phosphate of lime is exhausted, becomes putrid, and when examined through a microscope, contains globules of corrupted matter, which is only eaten, because generally unknown to exist. The effect of it on infants and children who use it daily for food, is weakness, sickness and premature death. A child might as well be put to a wet nurse in the last stages of consumption, as to be fed on such milk.

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INVENTIVE GENIUS OF THE AMERICANS.

Few are aware of the marvelous triumphs constantly going forward in this country. A contemporay says:—

"We have seen lately, as a specimen of rare American mechanical genius, a machine costing not over five hundred dollars, invented by a working man, which takes hold of a sheet of brass, copper, or iron, and turns off complete hinges at the rate of a gross in ten minutes, hinges, too, neater than they are made by any other process; also, a machine that takes hold of an iron rod and whips it perfectly fitted with pointed screws. This is also the invention of a working man; and both of these machines are superior to any thing of the kind in the world. No other process of manufacture can compete with them."

CATTLE BREEDING. It is stated in the London Quarterly Review that the effect of Sir Robert Peel's tariff in abolishing the duty on the introduction of live stock into England in 1842, was to revolutionize the character of Dutch and Danish farming. Before that event the pastures of the two countries were chiefly devoted to dairy purposes; but immediately after, "the farmers began to breed stock, and consequently turnips and mangold-wurzel were being crept over fields, where once the dairy-maid carried the milking pail."

The Jutland beef is described as being especially savory, and some of the animals sent to England by the Danes are acknowledged to be equal to the Durham short horns. The Americans are said to be the best customers of Great Britain, for fancy specimens of stock; and the prices we pay them for bulls are described as fabulous by the Reviewer, who instances as in point, the fact that an American gave last year a thousand pounds for the celebrated bull bred by Earl Duse, which, by the way, unfortunately broke his neck in a few days after I got him home. I put a small Dorking male in the yard with my large Shanghai females, who produced several dozens of eggs, which I had hatched out by common barn-

yard fowls, of large proportion, and generally uniform gray color, which at four months old gave four and a half pounds each of chicken-flesh, in color and consistency fit for the table of an epicure. This result satisfied me that benefit could be derived from my importation in one shape. The succeeding year my crossed chickens proved the best layers I have seen, and this has been my experience up to the present time.

I have males of the Dorking, the Black Spanish, and the gold spangled Polish variety, invariably preferring the male as the smallest fowl, and in all respects, with the exception of color, the properties and weight of produce have been the same.

In 1850, I supplied myself with almost every feature of the fowl fashion of the period, even including that monstrosity (then in its incipiency) called the "Botherum Postum," by myself, I believe, in a sportive moment. I soon found out that the expense of separate varieties for so-called varieties of Chinese fowls had been lost; for, out of a pair of yellow Shanghais, brown ditto, gray ditto, and ditto, ditto to any extent, feathered legs or smooth underpinning, no matter which, I could procure members of every kind in my possession, from the purest white to the most dingy black, and with every intermediate shade, mottle and mark.

My Bothersums were all Shanghai, Chin, and rice versa. Moreover, each gentleman became more gaunt and stony to his predators; and with the best care during winters, one half of the lot had their toes, feet and legs frozen off, which liability never attached to a single member of the crossed varieties. As layers, the imported stock possessed rather semi-occasional properties; and such had been my respect for them as an article of separate cultivation, that I have only half dozen of them left, and these are kept on account of their fullness of shape and reasonable altitude, and with the hope that their produce next year may be like them, and constitute a fine table fowl.

As I said previously, I am satisfied that good has proceeded from crossing the foreign with the common breed of fowls, but the attempt to preserve the former pure, in this climate, is always a safe indication of strength of blood, an article which was much wanted in fowls prior to the past three or four years, for in and out of breeding had reduced their stamina, so that reproduction was more a matter of chance than certainty. It is not so now.

It occurs to me, in connection, with this subject, that the prizes offered for the so called varieties of eastern fowls, by the N. H. Agricultural Society, are not calculated to serve the best purpose. One prize is sufficient for the whole class, as for any one of its members may be had all the other varieties. The best shape and size of Chinese fowl may be worthy a prize; but color amounts to nothing, any more than does smooth or feathered legs, any and both can be produced in a single clutch from fowls of any of the denominations of eastern origin.

Black Spanish Dorking and Bolton Grey varieties are the only other gallinaceous fowls the Society ought to countenance, as they generally produce their like, which is not the case with the common breed of fowls, and the greater uniformity of their color, which is always a safe indication of strength of blood, an article which was much wanted in fowls prior to the past three or four years, for in and out of breeding had reduced their stamina, so that reproduction was more a matter of chance than certainty.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.



AUGUSTA:
THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 6, 1855.

EQUITY STORES

Are not all stores where goods and merchandise are bought, equity stores? Alas, no. Let the thousands of the poor who are daily made victims of the grinding exactions of some of the "Shylocks," who are to be found behind the counter, answer, and they will tell you that they seldom find such a commodity in their establishments. That there are very many honorable exceptions, we admit. If there were not, the whole community would fare worse than the Kilkenny cats, who eat each other except the tips of their tails.

The exactions of such greedy traders gave rise some years ago to what are called "union stores." These are established by individuals who unite, pay in a certain amount of funds to establish a capital, and the goods are sold to them at cost.

Within a short time a new kind of store has been started in Boston, which, we believe, is now in the full tide of success. It is called the "Boston House of Equity."

The high price of bread for a year or more past, and the consequent high price of other articles, occasioned in part by the extortion of the flour monopolizing speculators, has given rise to this movement.

The principle of it is this,—a cash capital is raised sufficient for the amount of business designed to be done. It is then designed to, first do a cash business, that is, all articles bought must be paid for on delivery.

Second, to do business on a sufficiently large scale to meet the wants of all.

Third, to connect itself directly with the producers of the country, and deliver the goods directly to the consumers, thereby dispensing with a very large number of middle men, whose profits the consumer has to pay.

Fourth, to establish branch houses, so as to effect exchanges of produce and other goods. In order to make the equity house pay its own expenses, five per cent. commission is added to the original cost of goods, which, in addition to ordinary expenses, will include their delivery to consumers living in the vicinity.

This system, if carried out in equity, will be of great service to the non-producers, and a benefit to the producers. The profit cars get a fair price for what they have to sell, and the consumers can get, also, at a fair price, what they need, and prosperity is always more universal and more lasting when business is carried on in this manner. It is no lasting advantage to the producer to have the price of his produce blown up by the speculator to an unnatural and unreasonable height.

It only puts the consumer on the defense; an antagonism is created, and in the contest the producer gets skin'd as deeply as the consumer. It is on the old Jewish system, "skin for skin." It causes a great and serious fluctuation of prices, which is always injurious to the stability and regularity, and consequently the prosperity of business.

We have said, if carried on in equity, and we said so because the success of all equity movements depends upon being true and faithful to itself. This, like all other systems established by human ingenuity, may be abused, and if the conductors are not themselves thoroughly imbued with equity itself in the heart, they may, under the guise of equity, do a great deal of injury.

We would respectfully say, therefore, to all concerned in the success of this movement, whether producer, consumer, or agent, if you wish for permanent success, Be Honest.

THAT TAT TAKEN. We copied an article from the Dover Observer, last week, about a half a calf skin, from a calf three months old, weighing 84 lbs., and measuring 19 square feet, and the owner, Mr. Brown, of Brownville, offed his hat and the hide to any one who should buy it. This paragraph coming under the notice of our neighbors, Messrs. C. A. & B. F. Wing, of Winthrop, they inform us that they bought of Messrs. L. F. & J. A. Sanborn, of Readfield, among other calfskins, one taken from a calf 12 weeks old, which weighed 94 lbs., measured 20 square feet, and cost \$6.94. This skin is not without parallel in many cases in their operations. Mr. B., the Messrs. Wing will take that hat, and your hide, too.

LECTURES ON ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY. Dr. D. K. Pearson will commence a course of lectures in the Boston Post office, for non-payment of postage, we notice the following for Maine people:

N. Lang, R. W. Kinnard, Patrick Meghn, Portland; Wm. Higgins, North Prospect; Dr. Weyman, Gardner; Mrs. Abby French, Sanborn; Wm. F. Cobb, Abby French; Rockland; Mrs. Nancy Thompson, Bristol; Wm. P. M. Moans, Augusta; J. A. Cushing, Fetter & Metcalfe, Bangor; Mrs. M. C. Hamlin, Saugus; Thomas Reynolds, East Orrington; Helen Gray, Lewiston.

To obtain these letters it is necessary, merely, for the persons to whom they are directed to forward a postage stamp to the Boston Post office, to pay their postage.

COLTON'S MAP. A new and elegant map of Maine has been recently published a few at the location of Railroads, towns, &c., of the State, together with portions of New Hampshire, New Brunswick & Canada. The progress of settlement, the dividing of old towns into new ones, and the location and construction of Railroads make it necessary to have new maps pretty often, in order to keep posted up with the march of improvement among us. J. H. Colton & Co., 172 William Street, New York, and C. C. Hall, of Portland, are the publishers.

EDWARD TAYLOR. The time of running on the Kendall and Portland Railroad was changed on Monday last, so that we now have two through trains daily from Boston, the second one reaching here about 10:30 P. M. We think this arrangement will prove a very convenient one for business men, and travellers generally. The time of leaving Augusta and Kendall's Mills has not been changed.

BEAR FROM BANGOR. The Bangor Mercury states that Mr. M. E. Rice, of that city, has packed thirteen hundred barrels of beef, the present season, the greater part of which he sold in New York and Boston markets. This lot was composed of the best beef barrelled in this market, and required 500 head of cattle.

COUNTERFEITS AHEAD. The Bangor Whig cautions the public against a new counterfeiter, as follows:

We were yesterday shown a bill purporting to be a ten dollar bill from the Skowhegan Bank, which bore unmistakable evidence of having been altered from a one. It may be detected by noticing particularly the prominent word ten in the letter \$ in dollars, which are clumsy altered.

SHOWMEGAN BRIDGE. The Clarion states that the stone work on the bridge at that place is nearly completed, and the bridge will be ready for travel about the first of next month.

FREIGHT. The Bath Tribune states that five cargoes of goods for merchants on the Kennebec are detained at that port by the state of navigation. Among other items are several thousand bushels of wheat for the Gardner flooring mills, a cargo of lime, &c. The railroad, however, is fast bringing the freight to its destination.

SPONGES. Last year 25,000,000 sponges were sent from New York from Florida. Five years ago

EDITOR'S TABLE.

MODERN PILGRIMS: Showing the improvements in travel, and the newest methods of reaching the Celestial City. By Geo. Wood, author of "Peter Schlemi in America." Two vols. Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co.; New York: J. C. Derby. Of course, all the admirers of "Good old John Bunyan's" "Pilgrim's Progress," will wish to read this book, and they will find it not behind its great original in power and interest. We have no space, this week to speak of this work as it deserves, but will refer to it again, in a week or two. In the meantime, our readers may obtain it, in this city, of Messrs. Stanwood and Sturgis.

SARGENT'S FIRST READER. Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co., publishers. The other books in Mr. Sargent's series of Standard Readers have already been noticed by us. We consider this series, for many reasons, the best one yet issued. This book forms the first number of the series, and is intended for the beginner—starting with the alphabet, and gradually, by a very simple and effectual system, teaching him to read quite well. Writing books for children is a peculiarly difficult undertaking, but we think the author has succeeded admirably in this case. For sale in this city by Stanwood & Sturgis.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. The twelfth volume of this work commenced with the December number. The principal articles are "The conquest of Mexico by Hernando Cortez," "Reminiscences of the Mississippi," and "A trip to Newfoundland;" and their interest is much enhanced by the fine engravings with which they are profusely illustrated. The meeting of Congress at this time, gives additional zest to the graphic representations of Hon. Mr. Bloom's Congressional Experiences. The "Monthly Record of Current Events," "Literary Notices," "Editor's Table," "Easy Chair," and "Drawer," the other original and selected matter that fill up the pages of this number—not忘记 the "Fashions for December," will furnish the reader with much to entertain, interest and amuse him, during his leisure hours. With the number for January, the admirers of Dickens will be delighted to hear, will be commenced the publication of a new serial story by that distinguished author, entitled "Little Dorrit." It will be published with all the original illustrations, and the part that costs the English reader twenty-five cents, will come at a cost of about two cents to the subscriber to Harper. The subscription to the Magazine is \$3 per annum.

KNICKERDOCKER MAGAZINE. The editor has presented his many readers with a most readable number, wherewith to while away the long hours of a December evening. "A glance a hundred years ahead," will be given to the reader some new ideas, while the infinite K. N. Pepper is as original as ever. Published by Samuel Hueston, at \$3 per annum.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT SNOW'S FALLS. On Sunday morning last, the extensive Fair Factory of the Messrs. Storrs at Snow's Falls was entirely consumed by fire. The building was large and convenient, and fitted with all the machinery necessary for the successful prosecution of every kind of chaff. On the Monday previous, a Dry House, situated above the Factory, was burned—the fire taking from a stove, used to dry the lumber.

The factory is supposed to have taken from a pile of wood and lumber between the railroad and factory—that being kindled by sparks from the locomotive, which passed two hours before the fire was discovered. The loss of the factory is \$4,000, on which there is an insurance of \$1000 in the Hamilton Mutual Insurance Company. The Dry House and lumber was valued at \$200, and was not insured.

[Oxford Democrat.]

HOUSEHOLD WORDS. The December number of this work contains thirty-two articles, among them another of those interesting tales for which Dickens' Household Words has become so noted. The reader will find in it a good growth for his pig-heap.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.



ARRIVAL OF THE ATLANTIC.

The steamship Atlantic arrived at New York on Friday last, bring dates from Europe to the 17th ult. The news is interesting, but not highly important. We make the following abstract:

Great Britain. Rumors are rife of a probable early dissolution of the British Parliament.

It is rumored that the Secretaryship of the Colonies having been refused by the Duke of Newcastle, will be given to Mr. Frederick Welles, who will be succeeded in the War Office by Captain C. P. Latimer.

General Codrington accepts the command of the British forces in the Crimea. Orders and Ribbons have been bestowed on Generals Pelissier and Simpson.

The Chartist, under Ernest Jones, and his former leaders, have reappeared in protest against the recent expulsion of French refugees in the island of Jersey.

The American whaler John Henry fell in with the abandoned British Arctic Ship Resolute, of Sir John Belcher's expedition, Davis' Straits, the crew taking possession thereof, and abandoning their own ship.

France. The Paris Exhibition is closed. Twelve thousand prizes have been distributed, including numerous decorations of the Legion Honor.

The list of American premiums had not been received.

The Emperor made a brief address, extolling the benefits of the Exhibition. In allusion to the war, he observed, "You desire, as I do, speedy and durable peace; but this peace, to be durable, must distinctly realize the objects for which the war was undertaken. Europe must decide who is right and who is wrong, and final victory be achieved by public opinion." He then called on foreign countries desiring peace to pronounce for or against the allies, and urged that without peace or rest the forging of arms was necessary to carry out the objects of the alliance.

General Items. The Belgian Chambers reopened. The King's speech was congratulatory upon the flourishing state of the nation, but makes no allusion to the war.

General Canrobert had an audience with the King of Sweden and a cordial reception. Nothing has transpired as to the success of his mission.

Rumor says he has reference to an alliance between a member of Bonaparte's family and the royal family of Sweden.

All the governments invited to take part in the conference of the Sound dues, including Russia, had signified their intention of being represented.

Denmark repudiated all intention of relinquishing its neutrality or entering into negotiations for altering the law of succession.

It is reported that Gen. Canrobert will visit Copenhagen on his return.

Troubles had arisen at Saragossa, in Spain.

Order has, however, been restored.

The difficulties existing between Sardinia and Tuscany are on the point of being settled.

The Sardinian Chambers opened on the 12th. The King in his speech gloried in the success of the war with the Tuscany powers.

In Naples, Mazzini, the discharged minister of the police, has been appointed Counsellor of State.

President Fillmore was on his way to Italy.

In the Svea the election of the radicals had obtained a triumph.

The United States Minister at Greece had excited much attention by exchanging formal visits with the Russian Minister.

French papers say that the United States offer to pay the indebtedness of Greece, to England and France, in consideration of receiving the Island of Milo for thirty years.

Athenes, Nov. 9. The American squadron had departed for Constantinople.

The War News.

Latest dispatches report officially from Lord Stratford de Redcliffe a victory gained November 5th, by Omar Pasha over 10,000 Russian troops, mostly Georgian militia men, at the river Ingour, which he crossed with his forces, amounting to 20,000 men, at four points, capturing 60 prisoners, three guns, and killing and wounding 400 of the enemy. Turkish loss 300.

A private dispatch, which evidently refers to the same battle, says that the Turks crossed the river Arakava, and stormed the Russian redoubts, after which they pushed forward to Wards Kutias.

Kars is still besieged, but appearances indicate that the Russians will retire to Tiflis.

Nothing new is received from the Crimea. Both armies are preparing for the approach of winter. Only a few ships remain in the Dnieper, and the bulk of the fleet are returning to Constantinople.

Prussian forces are again extremely powerful, but vague. Diplomacy, however, is active, especially at Stockholm, Vienna and Brussels.

A desultory fire was kept up between the north and south sides of Sebastopol. The fortifications of both sides were being augmented.

The latest date from the seat of war received by mail, are to the 3d inst. The weather continues fine.

Prince Gorchakoff's latest dispatch says nothing new in the Crimea. The enemy continues to occupy the city of the Baidar, which they had captured.

A Russian cadet who had deserted, reports that Gorchakoff is determined to hazard an attack.

The Allies continue every night to reinforce their advanced posts and support with field artillery.

Count Zamoiski, has been appointed to raise and command a division of Cossacks and Poles for the British service.

St. Petersburg dispatches state that the Emperor left Nicolaiev on the 7th of November for the Crimea, to thank, in person, Gorchakoff's army. He returned via Moscow to St. Petersburg.

Up to the 12th the allies had not undertaken any great movement in the Crimea.

The export of breadstuffs from Turkish ports is prohibited, but importation is allowed, duty free.

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Numerous communications are being exchanged between the courts of Vienna and St. Petersburg, but it is thought that preliminaries for peace negotiations will not take a definite shape until the arrival of Sir Hamilton Seymour, the new British Minister at Vienna.

A Berlin despatch states that it appears more and more positive that preliminaries are being arranged at Brussels, with the assent of Russia, for the resumption of negotiations for peace.

WREETERS IN LAKE ERIE. An oyster bed has been accidentally planted in Lake Erie by the steamer Buckeye State, which on her last trip up the lake, was obliged, in a heavy head sea, to throw overboard one hundred barrels of oysters in the shell, just fresh from the salt water of the Atlantic coast. As they were dropped in deep water, there are no danger of their being picked up, and the oysters have therefore been lost. The question is whether a salt water product can thrive in the fresh water of the west. We should think not; but if it is possible, the experiment will now have a fair trial. [Philadelphia American.]

ROBBERS ON AN EXPRESS COMPANY. A few days ago a messenger of one of our express companies was waylaid and robbed in mid-night, and two gold watches, in the following manner:

The money had been placed in the safe which was in the cabin of the messenger, on board a steamer. The Governor thinks that such a modification would relieve the law of all their harshness. This recommendation has undoubtedly been made in view of the action of the British authorities in regard to the imprisonment and detention of colored seamen on board British vessels in the ports of South Carolina. It is not proposed to modify the law so far as to release the colored men and watches. The robbery was made known to the police, but though they suspected certain parties, the evidence was not sufficient to justify their arrest. [Traveller.]

FAMINE AT THE CAPE DE VERDE ISLANDS.

New York, Dec. 1. Advice from St. Vincent, Cape de Verde, of Oct. 31, announce that the crops have totally failed, and nearly all the cattle had died of starvation. Many of the inhabitants were also dying of starvation. The U. S. Consul had made an appeal through Com. Crabbé, to the people of this country, for assistance at the island of San Antonio. 30,000 people are living on the stalks of the banana, and the carcasses of the animals that have died of starvation.

The U. S. flag ship Jamestown, Commodore Crabbé, Lieut. J. F. Armstrong commanding, was at St. Vincent, Porte Grande, on the 29th of October, and sailed for St. John's with the Porta Praya, the coast of Africa southward. She would be down the coast five or six months.

The Dale, Lieutenant commanding Walbach, was at St. Vincent, Porte Grande, and sailed on the 31st of October to join the Commodore at Porta Praya, and thence to the United States. All well in both ships.

The master and crew of the late barque Kalafla, of Bath, were on board the Dale for passage to the United States—the Kalafla having been sunk in the English Channel, by collision with a vessel said to be from Cardiff for Panama.

AMERICAN EXHIBITORS AT THE FRENCH INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

The Paris correspondent of the New York Commercial writes on the 8th inst., that the awards of great credit in regard to the award of the medals of honor, had still closed. The Juries first allowed a total of 485 large gold medals, of which the United States had four; one each to McCormick, Goodyear, Lieut. Maury, and Putz (threshing machine). But, after three weeks discussion, the number of medals have been reduced to 140, of which the United States will get only two—and these two go to McCormick and Goodyear. He then called on foreign countries desiring peace to pronounce for or against the allies, and urged that without peace or rest the forging of arms was necessary to carry out the objects of the alliance.

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THE GRAPE CROP OF CALIFORNIA.

From information derived from Dr. Tracy, who is now in California, we learn that the grape crop of the present year is likely to prove much more abundant than has been the case in former seasons, while a corresponding increase of the trade in the fruit between the two countries, is to be expected.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN

The Muse.

From Longfellow's new poem, "Hiawatha."

THE FIRST HUNT.

In the description of Hiawatha's childhood, the poet introduces the following beautiful account of his hero's first hunting exploit. Iago, "the marvellous story-teller," having made for Hiawatha a bow and arrows, sends him forth into the forest to bring home a deer. The poem proceeds—

Far into the forest straightway

All alone walked Hiawatha.

Proudly with his bow and arrows;

And the birds sang round him, o'er him,

"Do not shoot us, Hiawatha!"

Sang the Opechosis, the robin,

Sang the blue-bird, the Wrens,

"Do not shoot us, Hiawatha!"

Up the oak-tree, close beside him,

Sprang the squirrel, Ajidamoo,

And put among the branches,

Coughed and chattered from the oak-tree,

Laughed, and said between his laughing,

"Do not shoot me, Hiawatha!"

And the rabbit from his pathway

Leaped aside, and at a distance

Sat upon his haunches,

Half in fear and half in frolic,

Saying to the little hunter,

"Do not shoot me, Hiawatha!"

But he heeded not her words,

For his thoughts were with the red deer;

On their tracks his eyes were fastened,

Leaving toward the river,

To the ford across the river,

And as in one's slumber walked he.

Hidden in the older bushes,

There he waited till the deer came,

Till he saw two antlers lifted,

Saw two nostrils point to windward,

And a deer came down the pathway,

Flecked with leasy light and shadow,

And his heart within him fluttered,

Trembled like the leaves above him,

Like the bird-leaf palpitated,

As the deer came down the pathway.

Then upon one knee uprising,

Hiawatha aimed an arrow;

Scarce a twig moved with his motion,

Scarce a leaf was stirred or rustled,

But the wary roebuck started,

Stamp'd with all his hoofs together,

Listened with one foot uplifted,

Leaped as if to meet the arrow;

Ah! the singing fatal arrow;

Like a wasp it buzzed and stung him!

Dead he lay there in the forest,

By the ford above the river;

Beat his heart hoard longer,

But the heart of Hiawatha

Throbbed and shouted and exulted,

As he bore the red deer onward,

And Iago and Nokomis

Bailed his coming with applause!

From "Hiawatha."

WINTER.

Oh! the long and dreary winter!

Oh! the cold and cruel winter!

Ever thicker, thicker, thicker

Froze the ice on lake and river,

Ever deeper, deeper, deeper

Fell the snow o'er all the landscape,

Fell the covering snow and drifted

Through the forest, round the village.

Hardly from his buried wigwam

Could the hunter force a passage;

With his mitten and his snow shoes

Vainly walked he through the forest,

Sought for bird or beast and found none,

Saw no track of deer or rabbit;

In the snow behold no footprints,

In the gashly, gleaming forest

Fell, and could not rise from weakness,

Perished there from cold and hunger.

Oh he faints and the fever!

Oh the wasting of the famine!

Oh the blasting of the fever!

Oh the wailing of the children!

Oh the anguish of the women!

Oh! the earth was sick and famished;

Hungry was the air about them;

Hungry was the sky above them,

And the hungry stars in heaven

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Oh the wasting of the famine!

Oh the blasting of the fever!

Oh the wailing of the children!

Oh the anguish of the women!

Oh! the earth was sick and famished;

Hungry was the air about them;

Hungry was the sky above them,

And the hungry stars in heaven

Perished there from cold and hunger.

As he faints and the fever!

Oh the wasting of the famine!

Oh the blasting of the fever!